

FACULTY RESEARCH PRESENTATION #2

Network Topology and the Democratic Peace

Tuesday, January 24, 2017, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Avenue, Room 120

Columbus, Ohio 43201

[See photos from this event](#)

Please note this is an internal Mershon Center event. For more information, please contact Steven Blalock at blalock.33@osu.edu or at (614) 688-5944.

Skyler J. Cranmer is the Carter Phillips and Sue Henry Associate Professor of Political Science at the Ohio State University. His research focuses on network science, particularly the role of topology in modeling complex networks and forecasting their evolution. His goal in these efforts is to develop network based theories, innovative statistical methods for network analysis, and policy relevant predictions. His areas of application are eclectic, ranging from international politics to behavioral genetics.

Abstract

The democratic peace is one of the few empirical findings in International Relations that has acquired a law-like status. Many attempts have been made to fully understand the theoretical mechanisms at work, increasingly focusing less upon regime type alone, and more upon collinear explanations such as trade, economic openness, interests, and IGOs along with joint regime type. We take a network-based perspective on the democratic peace, holding that democracies are often on the same side of conflicts against autocratic states and because of this, do not fight one another. We find strong evidence of interdependence in the conflict network, that a state's decision to attack another is conditioned upon a third state with that same target. When accounting for this effect, evidence of the democratic peace is much less clear.



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